

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 16, 2007

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
D-135  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
H-123  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable David E. Price  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
B-307 Rayburn  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
B-307 Rayburn  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Byrd and Price and Ranking Members Cochran and Rogers:

As you move forward with conference negotiations on the *United States Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health, and Iraq Accountability Act, 2007*, we ask that the \$35 million in the Senate report for Tier One Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) cities for the purpose of developing regional catastrophic event plans and preparedness remain in the final version of the bill. In the wake of severe cuts in high threat UASI funding in recent years, this money is vital to ensuring that our highest risk cities have the resources available to adequately plan and prepare for a major catastrophic event.

On June 16, 2006, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released its Nationwide Plan Review: Phase 2 Report. The DHS report states that "current catastrophic planning is unsystematic and not linked within a national planning system." The report found that 61 percent of states and 69 percent of urban areas do not have adequate plans to respond to a catastrophic event. It is critical that urban areas plan for response and recovery from threats such as a potential nuclear attack, a chemical incident or a major natural disaster. \$35 million would serve as a starting point for the Tier One UASI sites for strategic planning, mass evacuation planning, and support for the impacted communities surrounding the urban area, public education, and outreach.

We recognize the difficult choices you will have to make in completing a final version of the bill, but we think this funding deserves special consideration. Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely yours,



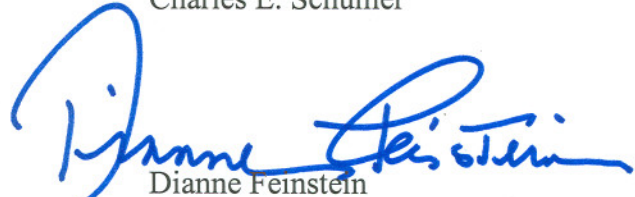
Hillary Rodham Clinton



Charles E. Schumer



Barack Obama



Dianne Feinstein



Frank Lautenberg



Robert Menendez